

USDA-SCS  
Section II-E  
Area 13

Glasscock  
Howard

## LIMESTONE HILL

### RNAGE SITE DESCRIPTION

PE 25-31

Land Resource Area: Edwards Plateau

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: Gently rolling to moderately steep hills and ridges at elevations of 1800 to 2800 feet.
2. SOILS:
  - a. Very shallow gravelly loams over cemented caliche and limestone. Some fractures occur in the parent material. The low water-holding capacity limits yield and species. Small rains are effective. Occasionally, small limestone rocks are present on the soil surface.
  - b. Soils which characterize the site are:  
Ector Rock Outcrop complex
  - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMATE - See Field Office Climatic Description
4. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
  - a. This is a grassland with few scattered woody plants. The vegetation is dominated by sideoats grama with lesser amounts of little bluestem, cane bluestem, slim tridens along with an abundance of forbs. There are scattered plants of juniper present.

Relative Percentage

<u>Grasses</u>	<u>80%</u>	<u>Woody</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>Forbs</u>	<u>10%</u>
Little bluestem	10	Ephedra		Dotted gayfeather	
Sideoats grama	20	Shrubby dalea		Bushsunflower	
Cane bluestem	5	Sticky selloa		Orange zexmenia	
Green sprangletop	10	Catclaw		Bundleflower	
Buffalograss	10	Shinoak		Croton	
Curlymesquite		Cactus sp.	5	Catclaw sensitive- briar	
Slim tridens	5	Javelinabush		Snoutbean	
Hairy grama	5	Sumac		Chalkhill woolly- white	
Perennial threeawn		Hackberry			
Hairy tridens	5	Juniper	5		
Bottlebrush				Gaura	
squirreltail	T			Greenthread	
New Mexico				Verbena	
feathergrass	T			Eveningprimrose	
Plains bristlegrass	T			Tubetongue	
Black grama	5			Mexican sagewort	
Bush muhly	T				
Blue grama	T				
Sand dropseed	5				
Tabosa	T				
Texas wintergrass	T				

b. As retrogression occurs, juniper, catclaw, lotebush, agarito, littleleaf sumac, shinoak, pricklypear, and tasajillo are the principle woody increasers and invaders. Other increasers and invaders may be threeawn, lovegrasses, annuals, hairy tridens, red grama, bladderpod, annual dozedaisy, gaillardia, caltrop, croton, pepperweed, and perennial broomweed. Juniper is the most common woody invader.

c. Approximate total annual yields on the site in excellent condition ranges from 800 pounds in poor years to 2000 pounds of air-dry vegetation in good years.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is used by deer, turkey, rabbits, quail, and dove. The abundance of forbs plus woody plants for cover makes this a fairly good site for several wildlife species.
6. AESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: A good variety of forbs and woody plants make the site attractive during the growing season. Birds and wildlife can be seen where woody plants are present. Many of the forbs on this site are quite colorful in the summer months in years of good rainfall.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: The thin soil with fractured limestone underneath provide a favorable infiltration rate. Erosion from water is a hazard if good plant cover is not present. On the steeper slopes, runoff is rapid but the nature of the soil and parent material cause the runoff to be relatively sediment free.

8. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. Condition Class	Percent Climax Vegetation	AC/AU/YL
Excellent	76-100	18-24
Good	51-75	22-30
Fair	26-50	30-40
Poor	0-25	40 +

b. Seeded Areas - All seedings

AC/AU/YR	Percent Ground Cover			
	100-76 15-19	75-51 19-20	50-26 26-35	25-0 35 +

9. RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES

a. Cattle

PRIMARY	SECONDARY	LOW VALUE
Little bluestem	Curlymesquite	Mesquite
Green sprangletop	Slim tridens	Littleleaf sumac
Plains bristlegrass	Buffalograss	Catclaw
Sideoats grama	Hairy grama	Annual forbs
Cane bluestem	Perennial threeawn	Milkwort
Tall dropseed	Bundleflower	Sticky selloa
	Gaura	Mentzelia
	Verbena	
	Sand dropseed	
	Woollywhite	

b. Sheep

PRIMARY	SECONDARY	LOW VALUE
Sideoats grama	Buffalograss	Perennial broomweed
Green sprangletop	Little bluestem	Mesquite
Fall witchgrass	Shrubby dalea	Juniper
Ephedra	Sticky selloa	Red grama
Cane bluestem	Shinoak	Rabbits tobacco
Perennial forbs	Hairy tridens	Bitterweed
Chalkhill woolly- white	Bushsunflower	Threeawn
	Annuals	Javelinabush
		Salvia

c. Goats

<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>LOW VALUE</u>
Shrubby dalea	Cane bluestem	Threeawn
Shinoak	Annual forbs	Juniper
Ephedra	Perennial forbs	Mesquite
Sticky selloa		Bitterweed
Sideoats grama		Red grama
Buffalograss		Evax
Chalkhill woolly- white		Javelinabush
		Croton

d. Deer

<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>LOW VALUE</u>
Chalkhill woolly- white	Orange zexmenia	Cactus
Annual forbs	Broomweed	Mesquite
Ephedra	Shinoak	Juniper
Gaura	Selloa	Most grasses
Eveningprimrose		
Hairy tubetongue		
Shinoak		

e. Dove and Quail

<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>LOW VALUE</u>
Seed of:		
Croton	Sumac mast	Most grasses
Annual forbs	Buffalograss	Juniper
Bristlegrass	Oak mast	
Rescue grass	Dropseeds	
Little barley	Catclaw sensitivebriar	
Bush sunflower	Orange zexmenia	
Bundleflower		

f. Turkey

<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>	<u>LOW VALUE</u>
Foliage of grasses & forbs	Juniper berries	Threeawns
Seed of:	Other woody plant	Tridens
Annual forbs	mast	Bluestems
Shinoak acorns	Sideoats grama	
Panicums		

DATE: 5-16-79

APPROVED BY R.H.J.